

Mid-Term Funding Report Form

Global Standard for CSO Accountability – Extension Phase 2019/20

SECTION 1: General Information

Name of organisation that received funds: Balkan Civil Society Development Network BCSDN

Project title: Global Standard for CSO Accountability in the Western Balkans

Funding period (start and end date): 01.10.2019 – 01.10.2020

Grant Amount: EUR 25000

Main contact person

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SECTION 1: Narrative Reporting

- 1. Please provide an update on how project implementation has developed vis-à-vis the project plan:**

The project implementation has developed according to schedule, and the results achieved are very encouraging. In certain areas, achievements have exceeded expectations. Vis vis the project plan, BCSDN's work during this period was focused on accomplishing the following objectives:

- 1.2. Promote the use of the Global Standard through BCSDN information sharing tools such as The Email Alerts, the Newsletter and events in the Balkans.
 - 2.1. Use the Global standard as a basis for the efforts of creating a National Code of Conduct in Albania
 - 2.2. Use the Global Standard as a knowledge resource for the National Ethical Code for CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 3.1. Provide support and use the Global standard in the efforts of capacity building for CSOs for the newly established National Accountability Network in North Macedonia.

BCSDN published **2 quarterly Newsletters** and **16 editions of Email Alerts (EMA)** encompassing the activity period. In its Email Alerts BCSDN published in total **12 contents** on topics concerning the Global Standard work, while **2 contents** in its Newsletters in 2019. Covering the main achievements and activities of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability, as well as relevant regional and international news, BCSDN promoted the use of Global Standard on a regional and international basis, which contents were included in the two BCSDN's most important and most recognized communication services.



Self-Regulatory Initiatives: Accountability Measures in Times of Scrutiny

ON MARCH 31, 2020

CSO ACCOUNTABILITY, E-MAIL ALERTS

We live in a time when many governments remain unable or unwilling to provide enabling environments for civil society to flourish. A strong civil society space is a basic pillar for democracy and one of the most important factors in enabling citizens to participate in the systems that influence their lives. A strong civil society may also allow citizens to hold their governments accountable and to demand for greater equality and justice. The Global Standard for CSO Accountability works to boost civic engagement and to challenge the rhetoric against civil society through enhancing CSO capacity. It is a flexible and open tool that CSOs can use to bolstered accountability and capacity, leading to the road of eliciting trust and appreciation from the public, expanding the civic space that they are working within, and delivering impact in a responsive and horizontal manner. Read more here.

Source: *Accountable Now*

Resilient Roots: 10 Tips to Collect Feedback from Your Primary Constituents- Part 2 of 5 Published

ON MARCH 12, 2020

CSO ACCOUNTABILITY, E-MAIL ALERTS

In the second part of the blog series on accountability feedback mechanisms are shared the common challenges that Resilient Roots have encountered when collecting feedback from their primary constituents, along with some tips for how to make the process meaningful. Simply collecting feedback will not make the organization more accountable, and it is important the organizations to be very intentional about what feedback to gather. This can then help the organization to decide the methods and channels that will use, and the questions want to ask. All of these aspects, along with the 10 tips will make the organizations' feedback collection exercise a fruitful, inclusive and productive process. Ultimately, this will also help to the organization to build a more trusted relationship with its own constituents. Read more here.

Source: *Global Standard for CSO Accountability*

The Global Accountability Week 2019- Our Work is Only Beginning!

ON OCTOBER 15, 2019

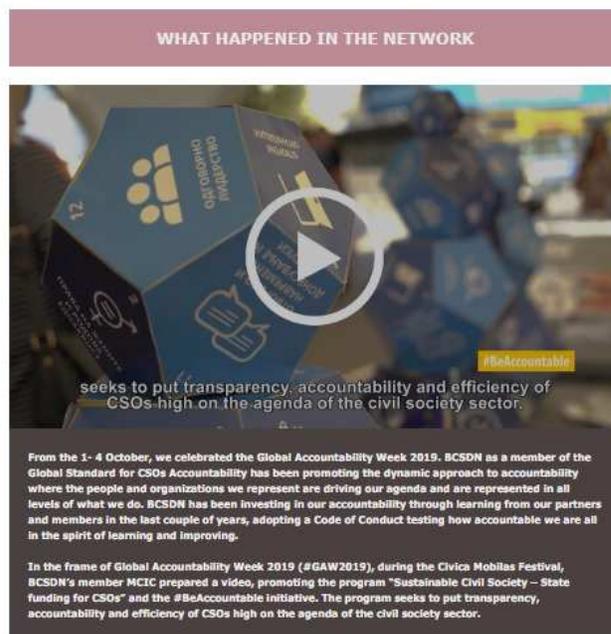
CSO ACCOUNTABILITY, E-MAIL ALERTS

BCSDN celebrated the Global Accountability Week from the 1st till the 4th of October together with our counterparts on the national level and with our partners on the global civil society scene. The Global Accountability Week seeks to gather CSOs around the world to promote how we are accountable to our constituencies but also aims to put the topic of accountability at the forefront of civil society development by promoting our standard for work and ethics. BCSDN as a member of the Global Standard for CSOs Accountability has been promoting the dynamic approach to accountability where the people and organizations we represent are driving our agenda and are represented in all levels of what we do. BCSDN has been investing in our accountability through learning from our partners and members in the last couple of years. We have adopted our Code of Conduct last year and have created an accountability framework that will allow us to test how accountable we are all in the spirit of learning and improving. Read more about the article here.

Source: *BCSDN*

As part of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability project and AGNA, BCSDN celebrated the Global Accountability Week from 1-4 October 2019, and promoted civil society accountability by showcasing CSO accountability initiatives from the region and around the world to advance the understanding of the concept of dynamic accountability.

Celebrating the Global Accountability week, BCSDN published an [article](#) explaining how as a member of the Global Standard for CSOs Accountability has been promoting the dynamic approach to accountability where the people and organizations we represent are driving our agenda and are represented in all levels of what we do. During the Global Accountability Week 2019, BCSDN's member from Macedonia-The Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) prepared a [video](#), promoting the #BeAccountable





initiative. Moreover, through online campaign, BCSDN tested how accountable we are, and we shared our experiences and practices on accountability. The campaign was dully included in the EMA and the BCSDN Newsletter, as well it was disseminated on the social media accounts.



BCSDN's member organization from Albania, Partners Albania for Change and Development and The National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania organized the **event**: “Strengthening accountability, transparency, and sustainability of civil society organizations – Code of Standards for CSOs” in Tirana. On the event, speakers from organizations in the Western Balkans region, as well as

representatives from BCSDN and Accountable Now shared their experience at regional and global level, on practices and mechanisms which improve civil society functioning. The event was the first of a various of meetings and other activities that National Resource Centre organized aiming to contribute to the increase of accountability and transparency of civil society sector. In 2019, BCSDN exchanged information for the use of the Global Standard as a knowledge resource for the National Code of Ethics in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While the National Code of Ethics was widely promoted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, implementation mechanism is still not agreed upon.

BCSDN through used the Global Standard for CSOs Accountability in the **program** “**Sustainable Civil Society – State Financing of CSOs**” in supporting the **capacity building of CSO networks in North Macedonia**. The program is implemented by the BCSDN member from North Macedonia, The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) in partnership with BCSDN and the Center for Information, Cooperation and Development of Civil Society Organizations (CNVOS) from Slovenia during the period 2018-2021. The





objective of the initiative is to **enable the capacity building of CSO networks for transparent and accountable work**. [5 networks of CSOs](#) received and signed the grants funded by the EU and started implementing the project activities.

BCSDN used the Global Standard as a basis for the organized a [workshop](#) on: **“How to increase the transparency and accountability of CSO Networks in North Macedonia?”** “The representatives of the Macedonian CSO networks had an opportunity to learn about topics on accountability and transparency, by the **shared knowledge and experience of the representative of the Global Standard**, who facilitated the workshop. BCSDN used the opportunity to use the partnership and similarity with Rendir Cuentas and their work with national platforms to present the self-assessment tool to the Macedonian networks. In an extensive 2-day workshop the participants were also acquainted with the Global Standard work, as well as with the different approaches towards self-regulation. To the participants was also introduced the self-assessment mechanism and the **Rendir APP: A Self-Assessment Application to Improve CSOs’ Accountability**, which was translated and accommodated in [Macedonian language](#). **Representative form BCSDN member from Albania also participated at the workshop with the aim to transfer the knowledge and replicate the effort in Albania**. In regards to BCSDN Workshop on Macedonian CSO networks, held on 28-30 January in Ohrid, North Macedonia, Rendir Cuentas and BCSDN delivered a [joint article](#), illustrating the partnership nature underlying the Global Standard for CSO Accountability.

2. Please share your key successes, challenges and any unforeseen changes so far.

The Global Accountability Week was used to promote accountability practices of the CSOs from the region, as well as globally, broadening the understanding of the dynamic accountability to local CSOs. Through online engagement, thousands people worldwide were reached, making huge uptake and momentum around accountability issues. The translation and the accommodation of **RendirApp** was of a particular importance for the mutual partnership between BCSDN and Global Standard, but most importantly was of a benefit for the Macedonian CSOs which have a chance to learn more about accountability and to testify about their own internal accountability practices. Through the deepened exchange with Rendir Cuentas, BCSDN was able to demonstrate to Albanian and Macedonian CSOs different practices of self-regulation and the framework developed for Latin American CSOs.



Although BCSDN shared information in order to use the Global Standard as a knowledge resource for National Code for CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, unfortunately CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina did not advance with the implementation of Ethical Code of Conduct yet.

2. Do you have any suggestions or needs for further support and collaboration from or with the Centre and/or other Project Partners?

BCSDN with the support from Rendir Cuentas has been working with Macedonian CSOs in order to share the self-assessment tool and the Rendir App among the representatives of the Macedonian CSOs. The networks have benefited from the transfer of knowledge of the Global Standard experience in self-assessment mechanisms, and had an opportunity to practically testify for their own (organizational) accountability, by using the RendirApp. BCSDN aims to replicate this effort in other countries and to further explore the self-assessment tools in the future.

There is a genuine interest by BCSDN members and other CSOs in the region to evaluate the accountability of the sector, BCSDN would be interested to explore this further with the partnership.

3. Please share any further information you think would be of interest for the following up and implementing during the remaining project period:
N/A



SECTION 2: Financial Reporting

Please fill in the template sent to you, if there are any changes from the proposal budget, please mark those clearly in the budget and provide a short explanation so it is easy to follow.